

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application as amended.

Without conceding to the propriety of the outstanding rejections, Applicants have amended Claim 9 to more particularly claim certain aspects of the invention. Claims 10, 12, 16 and 17 have been amended to provide proper antecedent basis and Claims 18-20 added to provide more comprehensive protection for certain aspects of the invention. Accordingly, Claims 9-20 are pending.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative, Mr. Jason Vick, during the April 15 telephone discussion. During the discussion, Claim 9 was discussed and contrasted with the operation of Arnold. Furthermore, the Specification of the current application was reviewed to highlight the functionality of the automatic repair function.

The Office Action rejects Claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and Claims 9-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,128,995 to Arnold et al. (hereinafter "Arnold"). As will become apparent from the following discussion, Arnold fails to anticipate the claimed invention.

Claim 9 recites, *inter alia*, for every startup of the computing machine, the startup function calls the automatic repair function, the automatic repair function calls the mounting function and, if an error is detected during the mounting function, the automatic repair function automatically calls the startup function.

As discussed during the telephone interview, and at least with reference to Figs. 6a, 7, 12, step 618, and the corresponding Description of the Specification, Arnold makes it abundantly clear that the system halts upon an error and subsequently requires

user intervention before proceeding.

Arnold makes no teaching or suggestion of an automatic repair function being capable of automatically calling a startup function as claimed. Furthermore, Arnold fails to teach or suggest that the automatic repair function calls the mounting function as claimed. In contrast, and as recited on column 4, lines 10-13 of Arnold, "upon detecting any configuration error, system utilities from the system reference diskette image, such as set configuration programs, diagnostic programs and utility programs can be automatically activated." It is apparent based at least on this teaching that Arnold does not use an automatic repair function to call the mounting function as claimed.

Based at least on the above distinctions and the individual feature(s) cited therein, it is apparent that Claim 16, and all the claims that depend from Claims 9 and 16 are also allowable over Arnold.

An early Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. However, should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the Application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

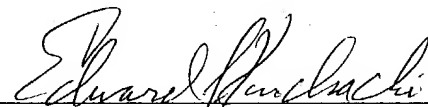
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (Attorney Docket No T2147-906206) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17 which may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, then such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Miles & Stockbridge P.C.

Date: April 16, 2004

By:



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